

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 29008 311559Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ACDA-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10
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INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
DIA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 29008

MILITARY ADDRESSEES FOR POLADS

GENEVA FOR USSALTTWO

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PAGE 02 PARIS 29008 311559Z

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, FR
SUBJ: FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
IN EUROPE

REFS: A. STATE 135540 DTG 27025Z MAY 78 NOTAL.
B. STATE 158598 DTG 212341Z JUN 78 NOTAL.

C. PARIS 20067 DTG 231719Z JUN 78 NOTAL.
D. USNATO 07054 DTG 201105Z JUL 78 NOTAL.

1. SUMMARY: GOF NOW PLANS TO SUGGEST CONSULTATIONS AT NATO IN OCTOBER (VICE SEPTEMBER) ON ITS PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT IN EUROPE (CDE). FRENCH HOPE TO HOLD PREPARATORY CONFERENCE BY THE END OF 1978 OR EARLY NEXT YEAR. FEW NATIONS HAVE RESPONDED TO MEMORANDUM DISTRIBUTED BY GOF IN MAY OUTLINING THE CONCEPT. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING AUGUST 30 CALL BY EMBOFF ON FOREIGN MINISTRY PACTS AND DISARMAMENT CHIEF DE LA FERRIERE, LATTER STATED THAT CURRENTLY GOF PLANS TO SUGGEST CONSULTATIONS ON CDE AT NATO IN OCTOBER RATHER THAN SEPTEMBER. DE LA FERRIERE STATED THAT BILATERAL EXCHANGES WILL BE USEFUL, BUT ALLIED FOCUS SHOULD BE AT NATO.

3. DE LA FERRIERE CONTINUED THAT THE FRENCH HOPE THAT A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH CAN BE WORKED OUT AMONG THE ALLIES. THE CDE PROPOSAL "IS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE MBFR." RATHER, IT IS AN ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH THE CONVENTIONAL IMBALANCE IN THE EUROPEAN THEATRE. AS OUTLINED IN THE FRENCH MEMORANDUM DESCRIBING THE PROJECT (REF A), THE FIRST STEP WOULD BE CONFIDENCE
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PAGE 03 PARIS 29008 311559Z

BUILDING MEASURES (CBMS) IN AN AREA GREATER THAN THAT ADDRESSED BY BFR. THIS NEED NOT CONFLICT WITH THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. EMBOFF COMMENTED THAT WE CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED THAT THEIR PROPOSAL MAY DILUTE THE ASSOCIATED MEASURES BEING EXAMINED FOR MBFR (REFS B AND C).

4. DE LA FERRIERE NOTED THAT FEW NATIONS HAVE RESPONDED TO THE FRENCH MEMO ON THE CDE DISTRIBUTED IN MAY (REF A). THE FRG HAS MADE SOME FAVORABLE COMMENTS. THE GOF STILL HOPES TO HOLD A PREPARATORY CONFERENCE BY THE END OF 1978 OR EARLY NEXT YEAR. THE VENUE QUESTION IS OPEN.

5. DE LA FERRIERE CONCLUDED THAT GOF IS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT ON THE CONCEPT AND HOPES THAT ALLIES WILL OFFER SUCH DURING NATO CONSULTATIONS.

6. COMMENT: WE ASSUME THAT FRENCH WILL SHORTLY INFORM NATO OF DESIRE TO DEFER CDE CONSULTATION TO OCTOBER VICE SEPTEMBER AS REPORTED REF D.
HARTMAN

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